



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT 6, 1989

OFFICE OF  
SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY  
RESPONSE

Honorable Howell Heflin  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Heflin:

Thank you for your referral (dated September 19, 1989) of a letter from your constituent, Rev. Aloysius Plaisance, who sought information about EPA's new regulations for underground storage tanks (USTs).

Rev. Plaisance wondered if the monastery 's USTS would not be subject to the UST regulations. Your constituent is correct in assuming that the monastery can be considered the residence of the monks who live there. Therefore, the monastery's two 500-gallon USTs do not need to meet the UST regulatory requirements, as long as they store motor fuel that is noncommercially used only by the monastery's residents. (The regulatory exclusion is for farm and residential Lists of 1,100 gallons or less storing motor fuel used for noncommercial purposes.)

Nevertheless, the safe operation and maintenance of the USTs should be of concern to your constituent. Residents of the monastery should be watchful for any signs that their USTs may be leaking. Some of these signs are unexplained gasoline odors, oil sheens on nearby surface water, or dead vegetation near the UST. They should respond quickly to such signs by calling their local fire department and taking action to correct the problem.

Since your constituent 's USTs are not subject to the UST regulations, I assume he would not need a copy of the regulations, as he had originally requested. If there is a need for a copy please let me know and we'll have one sent right away. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of ant further assistance.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

Ronald Brand, director  
Office of Underground Storage Tanks